A

Solemne Ingagement

of the Armie, under the Command of his Excellency Sr. THOMAS FAIRFAX:

With

A Declaration of their Resolutions as to disbanding:

And a brief Vindication of their Principles and Intentions, in relation to diverse scandalous things suggested against them.

Read, assented unto, and subscribed by all the Officers and Souldiers of the severall Regiments, at the Generall Rendezvouz near *Newmarket*

JUNE 5. 1647.

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IT is my desire, That the humble Representation of the dissatisfactions of the Army, together with their Ingagement, be forthwith printed and published. Given under my hand the 8. day of June, 1647.

FAIRFAX.

K
Foxwell
11805

WHereas upon the Petition intended and agreed upon in the Army in March laſt, to have been preſented to the Generall, for the obtaining onely of our due and neceſſary concernments as Souldiers; the Honourable Houſe of Commons, being unſeaſonably prepoſſeſt with a copy thereof, and (as by the ſequel we ſuppoſe) with ſome ſtrange miſrepreſentations of the carriage and intention of the ſame, was induced to ſend down an Order for ſuppreſſing the Petition, and within two or three dayes after upon further mis-informations and ſcandalous ſuggeſtions of the like or worſe nature, and by the indirect practiſe of ſome malicious and miſchievous perſons (as we ſuppoſe) ſurprizing or otherwiſe abuſing the Parliament, a Declaration was publiſhed in the name of both Houſes, highly cenſuring the ſaid Petition, and declaring the Petitioners (if they ſhould proceed thereupon) no leſſe then enemies to the State, and diſturbers of the Publick Peace: And whereas at the ſame time and ſince, diverſe eminent Officers of the Army have been brought into queſtion and trouble about the ſaid Petition, whereby both they and the reſt of the Officers were diſabled or diſcouraged for the time, from further acting or appearing therein on the Souldiers behalf: And whereas by the aforeſaid proceedings and the effects thereof, the Souldiers of this Army (finding themſelves ſo ſtopped in their due and regular way, of making known their juſt grievances and deſires to and by their Officers) were enforced to an unuſuall (but

in that caſe neceſſary) way of correſpondence and agreement amongſt themſelves, to chooſe out of the ſeverall Troops and Companies, ſeverall men, and thoſe out of their whole number to chooſe two or more for each Regiment, to act in the names and behalfs of the whole Souldiery of the reſpective Regiments, Troops, and Companies, in the proſecution of their rights and deſires in the ſaid Petition; as alſo of their juſt vindication and righting in reference to the aforeſaid proceedings upon and againſt the ſame, who have accordingly acted and done many things to thoſe ends; all which the ſouldiery do own and approve as their own Acts: And whereas afterwards (upon the ſending down of Field-Marſhall *Skippon*, and thoſe other Officers of the Army that were members of the Houſe of Commons, to quiet diſtempers in the Army) freſh hopes being conceived, of having our grievances and deſires again admitted to be made known and conſidered in a regular way, and without ſuch miſ-repreſentations as formerly, the Officers and Souldiers of the Army (except ſome few diſſenting Officers) did again joyn in a repreſentation of their common grievances, and the Officers (except as before) did agree upon a Narrative Account of the grounds, riſe, and growth of the diſcontents in the Army, and their proceedings in relation thereunto, with an Overture of the beſt expedients to remove or ſatisfie the ſame; both which were preſented to the ſaid Members of the Houſe, and from them reported to the Houſe: And whereas the Parliament, having thereupon voted and ordered ſome particulars onely towards ſatisfaction of our grievances, hath ſince proceeded to certain reſolutions of ſudden disbanding the Army by pieces, which reſolutions being taken, and to be executed before full or equall ſatisfaction given to the whole Army in any of the grievances, before effectuall performance of that ſatisfaction in part, which the preceding Votes ſeemed to promiſe (as to ſome of the grievances) and

before

before any conſideration at all of ſome others moſt materiall (as by the reſults of a generall Councell of warre on Saturday, May 29. was in generall declared, and is now more fully remonſtrated in particulars, by a repreſentation thereof agreed upon by us all) we cannot but look upon the ſaid reſolutions of diſbanding us in ſuch manner, as proceeding from the ſame malicious and miſchievous principles and intentions, and by the like indirect practices of the ſame perſons, (abuſing the Parliament and us) as the former proceedings againſt us before mentioned did, and not without cruell and bloudy purpoſes (as ſome of them have not ſtuck to declare or intimate) after the body of the Army ſhould be disbanded, or the Souldiers divided from their Officers; then to queſtion, proceed againſt, and execute their malicious intentions, upon all ſuch particular Officers and Souldiers in the Army, as had appeared to act in the premiſes in behalf of the Army: And whereas upon a late petition to the Generall from the Agitatours in behalf of the Souldiery, (grounded upon the preceeding conſiderations, relating to the ſaid reſolutions of disbanding, the ſaid generall Councel of Warre to prevent the danger and inconveniences of theſe diſturbances, or tumultuous actings or confluences, (which the diſſatisfactions and jealouſies (thereupon alſo grounded) were like ſuddenly to have produced in the Army, did adviſe the Generall firſt to contract the quarters of the Army, and then to draw the ſame to an orderly Rendezvouze for ſatisfaction of all, and that his Excellency would immediately ſend up to move and deſire the Parliament to ſuſpend any preſent proceedings upon the ſaid reſolutions of disbanding, to reſume the conſideration of the grievances and deſires ſent up from the Army, and not to disband it in pieces, before juſt and equall ſatisfaction given to the whole: And whereas ſome of the Regiments appointed for disbanding upon notice thereof, withdrawn themſelves from their quarters adjacent to their appoin-

ted Rendezvouze and drawing towards the head quarters, and the reſt contracting their quarters by order (according to the ſaid advice of the Councell of Warre) we the Officers and Souldiers of the ſeverall Regiments hereafter named, are now met at a generall Rendezvouze, and the Regiments appointed as aforeſaid to be disbanded have not appeared, nor can appear, but are rather reſolved not to appear at the ſeverall and reſpective Rendezvouzes, appointed as aforeſaid for their disbanding, & divers other things have been done by ſeverall other parties or members of the Army neceſſarily relating to the good and concernment of the whole in theſe affairs. Now foraſmuch as we know not, how far the malice, injuſtice, and tyrannicall principles of our enemies, that have already prevailed ſo far to abuſe the Parliament and the Army, as is afore mentioned in the paſt proceedings againſt the Army, may farther prevail to the danger or prejudice of our ſelves, or any Officers, or Souldiers of the Army, or other perſons that have appeared to act any thing in the behalf of the Army, or how far the ſame may farther prevail to the danger or prejudice of the Kingdome, in raiſing a new warre or otherwiſe: Therefore, for the better prevention of all ſuch dangers, prejudices, or other inconveniences that may enſue, and withall for the better ſatisfaction of the Parliament and Kingdome concerning our deſires of conforming to the authority of the one, and providing for the good and quiet of the other, in the preſent affair of disbanding, and for a more aſſured way, whereby that affair may come to a certain iſſue (to which purpoſes, we herein humbly implore the continued preſence and aſſiſtance of God the righteous Judge of all) the Officers and Souldiers of the Army ſubſcribing hereunto, do hereby declare, agree, and promiſe, to and with each other, and to and with the Parliament and Kingdome, as followeth;

Firſt, That we ſhall chearfully and readily disband, when there-

thereunto required by the Parliament; or elſe ſhall (many of us) be willing (if deſired) to ingage in further ſervice either in England or Ireland; having firſt ſuch ſatisfaction to the Army in relation to our grievances and deſires heretofore preſented; and ſuch ſecurity, that we our ſelves when disbanded, & in the condition of private men, or other the free born people of England (to whom the conſequence of our caſe doe ſequally extend) ſhall not remain ſubject to the like oppreſſion, injury, or abuſe, as in the premiſes hath been attempted, and put upon us while an Army, by the ſame mens continuance in the ſame credit and power, (eſpecially if as our Judges) who have in thoſe paſt proceedings againſt the Army ſo farre prevailed to abuſe the Parliament and us, and to endanger the Kingdome; and alſo ſuch ſecurity, that we our ſelves or any members of the Army, or other who have appeared to act any thing in behalf of the Army, in relation to the premiſes before recited, ſhall not after diſbanding, be any way queſtioned, perſecuted, troubled or prejudiced for any thing ſo acted, or for the entring into, or neceſſary proſecution of this preſent agreement, (we ſay) having firſt ſuch ſatisfaction & ſecurities in theſe things, as ſhall be agreed unto by a Councell, to conſiſt of thoſe generall Officers of the Army, who have concurred with the Army in the premiſſes, with two Commiſſion Officers and two Souldiers to be choſen for each regiment, who have concurred, or ſhall concur with us in the premiſſes; and in this agreement, or by the major part of ſuch of them who ſhall meet in councell for that purpoſe, when they ſhall be thereunto called by the Generall.

Secondly, That without ſuch ſatisfaction and ſecurity as aforeſaid, we ſhall not willingly disband, or divide, or ſuffer our ſelves to be disbanded, or divided. And whereas we find many ſtrange things ſuggeſted or ſuſpected to our great prejudice, concerning dangerous principles, intereſts and deſignes in this Army (as to the overthrowing of Magiſtracy, the ſuppreſſing

or

or hindering of Presbyterian, the eſtabliſhing of Independent government, or upholding of a generall licenciouſneſſe under pretence of liberty of conſcience, and many ſuch things) we ſhall very ſhortly tender to the Parliament a vindication of the Army from all ſuch ſcandals to clear our principles in relation thereunto: and in the mean time, we do diſavow and diſclaim all purpoſe or deſigne in our late or preſent proceedings, to advance or inſiſt upon any ſuch intereſt, neither would we (if we might and could) advance or ſet up any one particular party or intereſt in the Kingdome (though imagined never ſo much our own) but ſhould much rather ſtudy to provide (as far as may be within our ſphere or power) for ſuch an eſtabliſhment of common and equall right, freedome, and ſafety to the whole, as all might equally partake of, that do not (by denying the ſame to others, or otherwiſe) render themſelves incapable thereof.

FINIS.